



...the Charles Howard ring

Vancouver Magic Circle

INTERNATIONAL BROTHERHOOD OF MAGICIANS - RING 92

Affiliated with the Pacific Coast Association of Magicians

March General Meeting - Thursday March 25th. Past Presidents and One Trick Night

The next meeting of the IBM RING 92, The VANCOUVER MAGIC CIRCLE, takes place on Thursday March 25th, 2010. We will of course be meeting at the usual secret location, the Sunrise Community Hall. (950 Windermere Street, Vancouver)

This evening will be our annual "Past Presidents & One Trick Night." As such, everybody will be asked to present their "one trick." Not only is this a wonderful opportunity to show off some magic but it will also help you fulfill your obligation to perform once per year. This year (and going forward) there will be a **THREE (3) minute maximum** performance time so please

keep this in mind when planning your one trick performance.

6:30 – Doors open
7:00 – Workshop begins
8:00 – Business Meeting
8:20 – Snacks and socializing
9:00 – Past Presidents and One Trick Night

The topic of the workshop will be **CUPS & BALLS!** Please bring all your sets and get ready for an exciting, fun-filled magical evening! See you there!

X-elent Lecture Series—Friday April 24 David Williamson

David Williamson - A born showman and an unusually accomplished sleight of hand artist, who dazzles audiences with a unique and delightful brand of entertainment, blending heart-stopping magic with sidesplitting hilarity.

He has created illusions for and performed in several commercials and has developed TV shows for Walt Disney Productions and ABC, as well as consulting for

illusionists David Copperfield's and David Blaine's TV specials. Most recently, David appeared on PAX TV's World Magic Awards special where he was awarded comedy magician of the year.

You don't want to miss this event. We promise that this will be a night you won't forget.



The Magical Minutes

**Newsletter Date:
March 2010**

Our webmaster Mike Norden updates the VMC website frequently to ensure current information is provided to the thousands of visitors we have every month. As such, if you would like to remain on, or be added to the "Magicians for Hire" page please advise Mike. Your \$10 payment can be made on our website or with our Treasurer.



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A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

A few days ago Neil Kremer (your new 1st Vice-President and Editor of this newsletter) emailed me to see if I could hammer together a few paragraphs as newly elected President of the VMC for this newsletter. Well, this is the third time I have sat down at the keyboard trying to figure out what to write! All I can think to say is that I am very grateful for the support of our membership and hope I can live up to all of your expectations for the coming year. Don't expect any huge changes – after all, if it ain't broken, don't fix it! What I hope to bring to the plate (with the help of all of the executive) is to keep things on track and time so the Vancouver Magic Circle continues to pick up momentum as it has in the past few years, making us one of the best magic club's in North America, if not the world. Our goal is not to grow and add to our membership for the sake of numbers, but to draw into the club (and keep) those who really care about the art of magic and want to improve it and themselves by learning and connecting with other members, and hopefully passing their knowledge on to future generations.

It is hard to believe that I have been actively performing magic for nearly 46 years! Just so you know a little more about me, here is an encapsulated history of how I got into magic: On my eighth birthday (we're talking 1963 folks!), I received as a gift (my Father realizing that I had an un-natural obsession with reading magic books) a Squared-Circle production box and a few other smaller effects. He had borrowed an Abbot's version of the squared circle from his friend, and then VMC member, Arnie Wilhelmson. Dad managed to build a version of it in his work shop for me, which I still have (and use occasionally) to this day. Later on that year, a friend of Arnie's – Ian McLeod (VMC President 1959) asked me to be his guest at the annual VMC Christmas show.

Well, after that the magic bug bit hard. At the age of 9, I did my first public Halloween show at the Hastings Community Center in East Vancouver, only a few blocks from where I grew up. At that show was a woman who ran a concert party group that took children with various talents (dancing, musical instruments – her daughter ran a dance

studio) to retirement homes, festivals, hospitals, and prisons, to entertain people that otherwise could not get out to see events. I could not have gotten better training anywhere. I learned how to entertain in every

situation possible, and discovered that I was more suited to Comedy Magic than being too serious. I stuck with the group until I was 16, then struck out on my own to do real paying gigs. My act was a little different than most because I really had no contact with other magicians until my mid-teens and learned most of my magic through books and inventing new versions of old tricks. Well, since that time I have done thousands of shows in night clubs (even disco's and strip joints!), at festivals, birthday parties and special events. Magic has taken me to Japan, the U.S., the Klondike, and all over BC and other parts of Canada. I have met and made friends with people from all over the world that share my love and fanaticism with our weird and wonderful art. If I had it all to do again, I think I would have started a few years earlier! Well, it's time for me to stop reminiscing and start looking to the future. You are the future of the VMC and I look forward to any input (and help) any of our membership can contribute. Thank you all.

Bruce Hunt

President, Vancouver Magic Circle, 2010



A word to the wise
ain't necessary - it's
the stupid ones that
need the advice.

- Bill Cosby

Submitted by Ray Roch

I found the recent VMC ring #92 newsletter article on Winnipeg's Ring #40 to be very interesting as I was a member in the early 1960's prior to moving to Vancouver.

Some of the people shown in the photo of charter members were still members at the time. E.g. Mel Stover, a magic innovator who also wrote bridge solutions for the Winnipeg Free Press. Fred Lambert (an excellent ventriloquist) and Ivor Roberts (Richard Haldane was his stage name) who had a great coin-pail routine. I actually saw him perform in one of the last vaudeville houses that still showed movies and vaudeville acts as a kid growing up in Winnipeg during the late 1940's. I didn't know it was he until much later, when as an adult and a member of the Winnipeg club, I heard him reminiscing about his days in Vaudeville.

Other well-known members at the time of my membership were Lou Shapiro, Gene Shelley, and Dave Strong and last, but not least, Terry Greenwood who is still a good friend of mine. He introduced me to magic and sponsored me as member of Ring #40 (The drinking ring as it was aptly named when I was a member) Quite a partying bunch of members who always

frequented a Chinese restaurant called Ling Nans after meetings to scoff down grub especially prepared for the members.

I met Terry Greenwood when he was a resident in a 40-suite apartment my wife and I were care taking in lieu of paying rent. We did this so we could bank enough money together for a down payment on our first home. (It cost us \$17,500.00 and making the \$175.00 monthly payment was always a struggle)

While performing care taking duties I kept seeing a rabbit roaming the halls and eventually tracked it to Terry Greenwood's apartment where he divulged that he was a magician and needed the rabbit for his act. I overlooked the no-pet policy and in return, he taught me a few simple coin and card moves.

From that day on I was a magician and over the years enjoyed performing at every imaginable venue.

Cheers - Ray Roch



We've all seen the beautiful medals which are awarded to the winners of the competitions we have throughout the year. Now you can buy your very own! Imagine a collection of medals

hanging on your wall, all uniform in style – the envy of all your magic friends I'm sure. Okay, so you do actually have to have entered and won a competition in order to purchase the new style medals. There's always a catch isn't there?! The VMC Executive recognizes that in past

years such awards were not always available. You may also like to update your old style "keeper trophies" to make your collection uniform or replace a missing or broken one. If your name appears in the VMC roster as a winner of a competition you may purchase medals for the cost of \$20 each. The appropriate engraving will be applied and medals may be picked up at our general meeting. Please email Neil Kremer with the details of which medal you would like to order.

neil.kremer@ibmring92.com

Clownin' AROUND

MAGIC SHOP

Clownin Around Magic Shop is thrilled to be the sole sponsor the VMC website and a regular contributor to this newsletter.

Please show them warm VMC support by making Clownin Around Magic Shop YOUR source for all your magic needs!!!

-2010 VMC Executive

FEBRUARY IN REVIEW - Submitted by Dennis Chan



Brianna Carlson, Mike & Nicole Norden

The club's annual banquet and installation of new officers' ceremony took place on Sunday February 21 2010 at a venue call LaffLines comedy club in New Westminster. For the past several years the event was held at the Sands hotel in Vancouver. Because of the 2010 Olympics the hotel was booked and many roads closed for security reasons.

The doors opened at 5:00 pm and the buffet dinner was served at 6:00 pm. Gord Boyes started the evening with the awards presentation. The Stan Kramien

award went to Henry Tom. The Murray award went to Alexander Seaman. President's Award went to Neil Kremer. The Dave Culos/Golden Rabbit award went to Gord Boyes. Gord also presided over the installation ceremony. Bruce Hunt – President, Neil Kremer – 1st Vice-President, Mike Norden – 2nd Vice-President, Karen Eskilson – Secretary, David Wilson – Treasurer, Bryn Williams – Sergeant-at-Arms.



Jeff Christensen



Jesse Boyes

After dinner approximately 40 members stood for the club photo.

Henry Tom MC'd the competitions. The junior competitors were Jesse Boyes, Nicholas Chow (assisted by Jack Chow), and Brianna Carlson. The winner was Jesse Boyes. The adult competitors were Mike Norden, Bryn Williams, Jeff Christensen, Bruce Hunt, Ray Roch, Jonathan Hamilton, Bruce Meyers, and Dave Watters. The winner was Jonathan Hamilton.

Mike Norden handed out pins to members who have been with the club for 5, 10, and 15 years. Gord Boyes held a draw for those members who wanted extra Linking Ring magazines from the club library.



Neil Kremer & Gord Boyes

Ray Roch received the 2009 website award. Dennis Hewson received a certificate of appreciation for valuable contribution for the betterment of a junior member signed by Gord Boyes and Brianna Carlson. The out of town attendees were Bruce and Jennifer Meyers from Stanwood Washington. Billy Hseuh won the 50/50 draw of \$92.00. 38 members signed in, plus 30 guests.

Before the evening ended Gord Boyes announced that Dawn Jones also known as Cupcake the Party Clown had succumbed to her illness on Wednesday February 17th. A moment of silence was held for her.

Everyone had a great time in spite of the 29 steps.
Dennis Chan.



Who let this guy in?

FEBRUARY IN REVIEW - Continued



Jonathan Hamilton & Neil Kremer



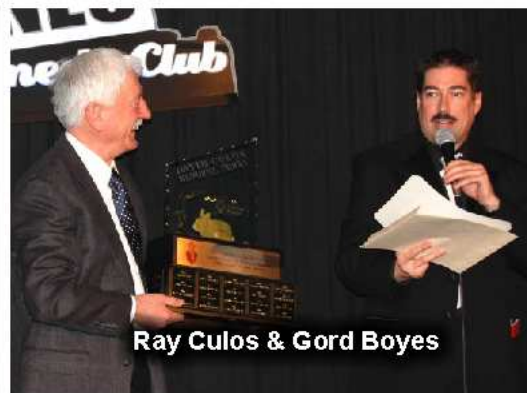
Nicholas Chow



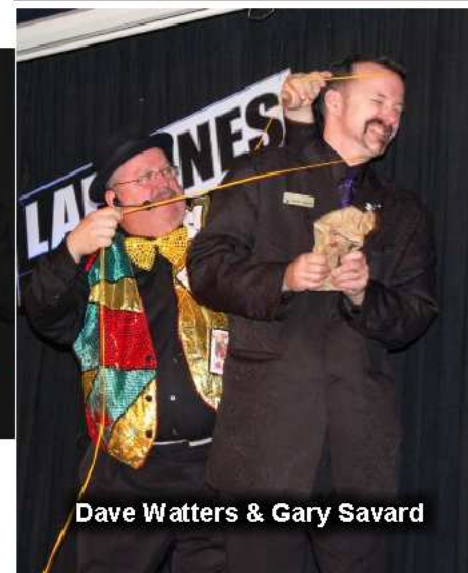
Mike Norden



Billy Hseuh



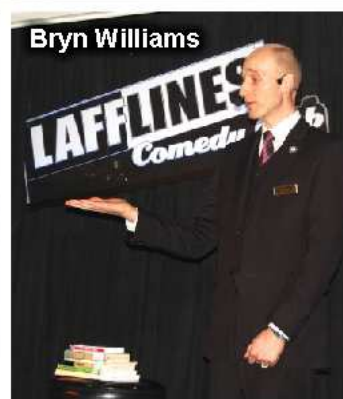
Ray Culos & Gord Boyes



Dave Watters & Gary Savard



2010 VMC Executive



Bryn Williams



Ray Roch



Gord Boyes, Henry Tom, Billy Hseuh, Rod Chow



Bruce Meyers

Thanks John Smithman for the wonderful photos!

www.champions.ca/vmc.htm

Is it courage or stupidity to: open a magic shop without any knowledge of magic and let the store be named Clownin Around International College Inc, when you weren't really a fan of clowns and without realizing there were other magic shops in town at the time? Opening a magic shop was not my brightest business move but years later I realize it is the best move I ever made.

I guess I'm always amazed that the store has survived almost 11 years. (There were some very rocky moments at the beginning years). A very reputable, (see quotes from Paul Harris etc) well stocked magic shop is located in a very unlikely place, the Kids Market. Sometimes we have to fight the store name and the location for people to take us seriously. When they make that step, the look on their face is amazing. Their face lights up (a la kid in a candy shop) as they take in our product line "Wow, do you ever have a lot of stuff!" And we do we cater to the entertainer: magician, clown, juggler or resident prankster...rubber chicken anyone?

Bio time:

Amanda O'Leary was trained as an actor who never envisioned herself in magic or being a magician/clown. She is an accomplished clown/magician named either Smartee Pants or Amazing Amanda. In May, Amanda will be leading workshops at ClownFun in Calgary. This will be the third year in a row that she has been asked to lecture. (They're still not getting it!) She has held workshops in magic presentations called Magic for Fraidy Cats, How to have fun just walking around (for you walk around performers), Magic with a Meaning and several others. Amanda also is a balloon twister and face painter. She's the resident elf at Kids Market name Elfina who actually has her own following. People call to see when she will be performing, upstaging Santa...but don't tell him!

Amanda loves being able to help the person find the perfect trick for what they are doing, be it a theatre production or movie or a 7 year old in a school talent show or a grandma who now has a special magical trunk when her grandkids come over so they can learn magic together. Who knew she could marry her love of performance with magic?

Joe Khan has been with Clownin Around Magic Shop since Feb 2000. What got him the job when he wasn't even looking for one? Royal Magic's The Pin Trick. Yep, that \$4 trick was an audition he didn't even know he was on. There was something in his presentation and his obvious admiration for how beautifully that trick fooled the senses, which made me (Amanda) look at how magic is performed. He let the trick do the magic for him. At that moment, I knew I couldn't afford him but I knew even more I couldn't afford not to have him in the store. Joe has been performing magic since 5 years old. He is an avid reader of books. To this very day, he amazes me with what he knows as far as products, book content, magicians from around the world, the whole gambit of anything magical.

For those of you who don't know about Clownin Around Magic Shop, we are a little shop with tons of magic. We have had people from all over the world be absolutely astounded by the amount of things we have. One fellow looked at me and said "In France I have to go to one store for my juggling, another for magic and yet another for the rubber chicken." I'm not sure what his act looked like and I'm not sure I wanted to know.

Again Thanks!

Amanda
Clownin Around Magic Shop

2nd floor Kids Market, Granville Island,
1496 Cartwright St, Vancouver, BC V6H3Y5
604-682-0244 www.clowninaroundmagic.com
Vancouver's Only Magic Store



"I love this place! Astonishingly" Paul Harris

Tidbits

The VMC Executive is looking for a few people to help out with the general meetings – specifically food preparation and workshops.

If you would be able to supply the food for a meeting please advise 2nd Vice-President Mike Norden (mike.norden@ibmring92.com). The cost of the food (maximum \$50) will be reimbursed. If you're able to help out it would be greatly appreciated.

Steve Braybrooke (steve@angelsevents.ca) will be administering the organization of meeting workshops. If you have any suggestions for a workshop you'd like us to consider or if you would be willing to host the workshop please contact Steve.

Thanks for your efforts and consideration.



This photo was taken in 1979. Do you know who this VMC magician and assistant are?

(Answer at the bottom of back page.)

A Letter - from Ray & Judy Culos

Hello Bruce

Again congratulations on being elected President of the Vancouver Magic Circle. The installation of officers deserved its own gold medal award during the presentations. It was good fun and serious business all at the same time.

We thought it was wonderful to see the Golden Rabbit Trophy go to past president Gord Boyes. I could sense by the expression on his face that he was surprised a natural reaction given the magic of the moment.

Judy and I were grateful to be guests of the club at the dinner at the Lafflines Comedy Club. It was a joy for us to be able to meet so many of David's friends especially those with whom we have come to know quite well.

Thanks so very much for giving us the opportunity to be involved in the presentation of the David Culos Memorial Trophy. We are thankful for the connection to the Vancouver Magic Circle and its members and for the courtesies extended. We wish you well!

Cheers

Ray and Judy Culos

Coming Events

General Meeting & One Trick Night – March 25

David Williamson Lecture - April 25

Kramien's Magic Jamboree – April 30 to May 1

Children's Magician of the Year Show – June 6

PCAM Magic at Sea – July 11 to July 18



Kramien's Magic Jamboree

Where you mingle with
the stars

April 30 – May 1 2010

Kramien's Magic

Jamboree will be returning this year - this is the magical gathering everyone is talking about. This year, you'll enjoy:

Two evening shows

ManyBIG-name acts

Great NEW lectures

Lots ofgreat dealers

2 contests – stage & close-up

1 HUGE grand magic auction

This is one of the year's highlights for many VMC members.

For more information please visit: www.magicjamboree.com



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